

Parmenter, L. 1952. Further records of *Doros conopseus* F. (Dipt. Syrphidae) and *Myennis octopunctata* Coq. (Dipt. Otitidae) in Surrey. *Ent. Mon. Mag.* 88: 13.

Shirt, D. B. 1987. *British red data books 2. Insects*. The Nature Conservancy Council, Peterborough.

SHORT COMMUNICATION

Hunting wasps disputing over female.—On 30.vi.1990, I visited the Navette Valley south of La Chapelle en Valgaudemar in the Parc National des Ecrins in the French Alps. The Navette Valley is a hanging valley with many alpine meadows higher up, but with patches of birch scrub at lower levels where fluvial erosion has revealed the underlying bouldery morainic material. Amongst these I took several photographs of three sand wasps, possibly *Ammophila sabulosa* (L.), locked together at their heads. In successive exposures, between which the group flew a few feet, the upper wasps, presumably males, were seen to have their abdomens crossed as if in dispute (Plate IV, Figure 2). After half a dozen shots I lost sight of them on the bouldery ground.—N. A. Callow, 25 Cranes Park Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8BS.

EDITORIAL

Over the past few years, several people have suggested how worthwhile it would be to have colour plates illustrated by photographs of living insects rather than set specimens. This has at last proved possible, and the two colour plates in this issue (Plates III and IV) are the result.

Together with Plates I and II, which illustrate specimens exhibited at the 1990 Annual Exhibition, the cost has been met by a grant from the Hammond and Crow Memorial Fund.

It is envisaged that future volumes of the *Journal* will continue to contain two colour plates from the Annual Exhibition together with two colour plates from photographs of living insects. Contributors who feel that they have high quality photographs showing particularly interesting aspects of insect behaviour are invited to submit them for publication together with a suitable article or short communication.

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PLATE IV.

1. *Myennis octopunctata* Coq. (Diptera: Otitidae), a modern record. R. K. A. Morris. 1991. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* 4: 95. A female *Myennis octopunctata* performing wing-waving display on poplar bark, 11.vii.90. Photograph by I. F. G. McLean, Pentax MX, 100mm f4 Takumar macro lens set at f32, extension tube and bellows, Olympus T28 twin-head macro flash, Agfa CT100 colour reversal film.

2. Hunting wasps disputing over female. N. A. Callow. 1991. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* 4: 96. Two males(?) disputing over female of sand wasp, possibly *Ammophila sabulosa* (L.). Pentax LX, 50mm macro lens, 32mm extension tubes, Pentax electronic flash.

3–4. Notes on the butterflies of Östergötland, Sweden. I. Kruys. 1991. *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.* 4: 77–82. *L. achine* male (3) and female (4).